

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

**FILED**

APR 24 2008

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK  
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

IDA M. WILSON,

Plaintiff - Appellant,

v.

JOHN FREDERICKS; KAREN HINTON;  
JOHN LILLEY,

Defendants - Appellees.

No. 06-16671

D.C. No. CV-04-00481-KJD

MEMORANDUM\*

Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the District of Nevada  
Kent J. Dawson, District Judge, Presiding

Argued and Submitted April 17, 2008  
San Francisco, California

Before: TROTT and THOMAS, Circuit Judges, and HOGAN,\*\* District Judge.

Robert Wilson appeals the district court's grant of summary judgment on his 42 U.S.C. § 1983 free speech claim in favor of Defendants Karen Hinton, John Lilley, and John Frederick. We have jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291 and

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\* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by 9th Cir. R. 36-3.

\*\* The Honorable Michael R. Hogan, United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, sitting by designation.

we affirm. We conclude that Wilson’s speech was made pursuant to his official duties as a public employee of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (“UNCE”) and is thus not protected. Even if it was protected, his First Amendment right is outweighed by Defendants’ legitimate administrative interest. As the parties are well aware of the facts, we do not recite them here.

“A grant of summary judgment is reviewed de novo.” Olsen v. Idaho State Bd. of Med., 363 F.3d 916, 922 (9th Cir. 2004). “We must determine, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to [Wilson], the non-moving party, whether there are any genuine issues of material fact and whether the district court correctly applied the substantive law.” Id.

The Supreme Court decided Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006), after the parties filed their briefing on Defendants’ motion for summary judgment but before the district court ruled on the motion. Because (1) Wilson was given ample notice of this decision before the district court issued its decision, and (2) there is no indication that Wilson made any request for supplemental briefing or entry of further evidence, it was appropriate for the district court to apply Garcetti in holding that Wilson’s speech was not protected.

“[W]hen public employees make statements pursuant to their official duties, the employees are not speaking as citizens for First Amendment purposes, and the

Constitution does not insulate their communications from employer discipline.”

Garcetti, 547 U.S. at 421. We conclude that both instances of speech Wilson points to were made pursuant to his official duties as a public employee.

Even if the speech was protected, the district court was correct to hold that Wilson’s First Amendment right to free speech is outweighed by Defendants’ legitimate administrative interest in having its employees who serve in a public contact role do so in a manner that does not undermine UNCE’s credibility. See id. at 418-19; Pool v. VanRheen, 297 F.3d 899, 908-09 (9th Cir. 2002).

**AFFIRMED.**